

**Preliminary Amendment**  
Rule 53(b) Divisional Application of  
U.S. Appln. No. 09/630,716

a<sup>2</sup> 1 (amended). An ink wastage absorber for pigment or dye ink comprising a flexible polyurethane foam having an air-permeability of 1.0 cc/cm<sup>2</sup>/sec or more.

a<sup>3</sup> 14 (amended). A process of producing an ink wastage absorber according to any one of claims 11 to 13, wherein said surface active agent is a denaturated sodium succinate.